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The situation in the Middle East

Right of peoples to self-determination

Letter dated 25 July 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write in connection to the note dated 3 July 2007, from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General (A/61/963-S/2007/406), regarding the Syrian citizen Bashar Soleiman Ahmad Makat.

The accusations made by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic in the annex to the aforementioned note are baseless. Not only does Mr. Makat receive regular medical attention and treatment, he has also been visited a number of times by members of the Red Cross, including the deputy chief of mission in Israel, who also met with the prisoner's family. His family will even visit in another two weeks.

Most importantly, Mr. Makat was examined as recently as three days ago, on 22 July, by a doctor who confirmed his recovery and stable condition and his receiving satisfactory medical treatment and attention.

In the future, it would behoove the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to check with his own Government, which receives updates on Mr. Makat directly from the Red Cross and knows that these allegations are without merit.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 66, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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